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What's Wrong With the CIA? 13

Congress should conduct a thorough investigation of that great what-is-it, the Central Intelligence Agency.

There have been other investigations of this allegedly supersecret outfit—which is permitted to spend untold millions of taxpayers' money without any accounting. But these investigations have amounted to superfluous whitewashes.

We are not so much concerned about whether Communists have infiltrated the CIA—although when Gen. Walter Bedell Smith headed the organization he acknowledged with characteristic forthrightness that they well might have.

What we should like to see is a congressional probe of the effectiveness of the organization—behind closed doors if that is considered necessary.

We wonder just how good the CIA is. The question involves more than a possible waste of tax money. It involves the basic security of the nation.

Certainly the CIA flubbed the dub on several occasions relating to the Korean War.

It apparently was not on the job in respect to the spectacular East German uprising of June 17, 1953. Else why was the administration caught flatfooted—with no response other than that of a sluggish, belated offer of food?

And where was the CIA in connection with the massive uprising in the Kremlin's Vorkuta slave labor camp in 1953? Apparently Washington was without intelligence of this extremely significant event until some freed prisoners told about it long afterward. Otherwise the administration surely would have taken every propaganda advantage of the rebellion at the time of its occurrence.

Moreover, if the CIA is such hot stuff in the cloak-and-dagger game, why is there such incredibly wide disagreement over the Soviet Union's economic and military potential?

Congress should make this outfit stand up and be counted. There seems to be something wrong with it.